

# The Mark Prairie News

October 2022

Mark Prairie Historical Society, 7528 S. Mark Rd., Canby, OR 97013

[markprairiehistoricalsociety.org](http://markprairiehistoricalsociety.org)

Judi Wolfer Aus, President

## Your Board of Directors

**President:** Judi Wolfer Aus

[Burtandjudi7808@outlook.com](mailto:Burtandjudi7808@outlook.com)

**Vice President:** Denyse McGriff

**Secretary:** Erin Nelsen

**Treasurer:** Gwen Millius

**At-Large Director:** Blain Sessions

**At-Large Director:** Patty Ellis

**Advisor:** Peggy Sigler



**Please read the new bylaw amendment that the Membership approved at the July 24<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

*"ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS.*

- a. The Board of Directors of this association shall consist of **at least** five members, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the society." At least is added.*

With that bylaw change we have approved a new board member: Let's welcome Patricia Ralston Ellis, a Mark family descendant on the Wolfer branch.

President Judi

**This Newsletter will seem a bit long, but we wanted to keep you updated!**



## To Our Friends of Mark Prairie Historical Society

Peggy Sigler, our MPHS Restoration Project Manager, is our trusted volunteer and Advisor to the Board of Directors. She brings valuable skills to our project as she has served as Oregon Field Representative for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Unfortunately, when we all agreed to join the board in the roles we represent for our community, we had no idea we would be restoring our beloved historic schoolhouse to the level we are now, nor that we'd still be deep in this project.

**RAISE A TOAST IN CELEBRATION!** The Structural Permit is in hand and CONSTRUCTION BEGAN on October 13 to close up the building before winter rains set in. We've virtually had no rain the past 2 months.

1. Blaine & Peggy met onsite with Emerick's crew before starting; several of us have stopped by to check on progress – Mike, Project Manager; George, Superintendent; Ed, Foreman (who loves old buildings!); and carpenters, Bart (he had already researched MP), Chris, and Bernadino.
2. Peggy meets often with the architect, Jeff, and the remainder of the detailed construction drawings are in progress and should be ready for final review by the Board this week.
3. Volunteers are needed to help with researching products and fixtures, shopping, errands, serving on a management committee (see #6 below), fundraising, and grant writing. We'll be needing help with some hands-on projects soon.
4. We have preliminary approval for a \$35k grant from the Kinsman Foundation; awaiting final word.
5. Peggy had a follow-up meeting with the Roundhouse Foundation to provide additional info for our \$50,000 grant request; awaiting final word. Restore Oregon contacted Roundhouse to endorse our request.
6. Peggy submitted a \$2500 grant request to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for an "Economic Study & Sustainability Plan" for future use of the schoolhouse as an event facility. She has talked with ECONorthwest and Restore Oregon about this project. This is a very competitive nationwide grant so not a sure thing. If not successful, we will look elsewhere for funding. We need volunteers who would like to serve on a committee to oversee the market study and draft a management plan (can be remotely).
7. Peggy submitted a \$2500 grant request for 2023 to Clackamas County Cultural Coalition, who have generously funded this project in 2021 and 2022.
8. Peggy submitted a \$5000 grant request to the Oregon Community Foundation for overhead to free up funds for restoration.
9. ROOF CHOICE: The County Historic Review Board staff planner said that because the drawings submitted by Arciform (former contractor who we terminated before hiring Emerick Construction) specifies a cedar or metal roof (not in our application proper), those are our only two options unless we submit another Historic Review application for a different roof material. To this end, Peggy has confirmed that the original roof was cedar *shingles* (not shakes) and updated our roof options. The MPHS Board has now reconfirmed the original choice of GAF Camelot II imitation shingles, a roof material which was formerly recommended by the Clackamas County HRB as an acceptable alternative to real cedar shingles that are no longer available. Peggy is addressing the requested material with County staff because we will be ready for roofing soon!
10. Judi and Jay & Deb Harman cleaned the remaining bits from the vestibule, and Jay helped Peggy move the remaining oak boards and two upper cabinet banks off site to store for possible future use.

11. Peggy took the 1950 Gibson electric range to Portland's Appliance City to have it assessed and, if it works, refurbished.
12. Tim and Daniel of Whiskey Hill Remodeling are rebuilding the long island into two smaller ones. The 12-foot island was intact, even after having had two huge logs land on it. The islands will have casters for mobility and oak counters that are milled from our trees that fell during the ice storm. Peggy salvaged beadboard for the ends and backs from Amy & Darryl Lenhardt who are restoring the Whiskey Hill School up the road.
13. Eric Marriot of Willow Classic Woodworking picked up our seasoned oak lumber that we milled on site to custom build 5-panel double doors leading from the classroom to the kitchen; he will also replicate desktops for the original school desks – we only have one top and five desks.
14. Peggy and Gwen are finally able to start submitting invoices to Liberty Mutual. Our initial payout of \$112,000 will carry us a bit farther but sizable expenses will now begin. Insurance should cover approximately \$402,000 (our "hard stop"); we expect to need another \$150,000 to complete the restoration and cover items that are not covered due to policy limitations or are new additions (like a water heater).
15. Jason Paolo, our dedicated grounds keeper, has kept the grass mowed for the past several years and continues to do so. He also steps in on a moment's notice to help on-site with restoration needs. We are extremely grateful for his expertise and dedication.
16. We are awaiting a quote and scope of work for replacing the septic system; this expense will be MPHS's responsibility as it is not eligible for insurance coverage.
17. Last, but very importantly, when Judi recruited Jay and Debra Harman (neighbors and retired Canby High School teachers) to help her clean out the vestibule, they renewed their MPHS memberships and are willing to help in various roles. We especially appreciate our loyal and generous members at this time and hope to share some festive times at the Schoolhouse with you in the future!

*Note: Updated 10/25/2022*

### **WE CAN SEE PROGRESS! A list of needs will be forthcoming.**

Like Uncle Sam said during war time in the 1940.....**"We Need You!"** We encourage and seek your help! Most importantly, volunteer time and cash donations. Along with grant requests, your generous donations help us meet the estimated \$150,000 beyond our insurance coverage. We netted \$1985 from our YARD SALE. Unfortunately, 40mph wind gusts and extreme wild fire smoke cut our shopping crowd! However, our remaining donated items benefited: Canby Rotary, Canby Center, Habitat for Humanity, Vietnam Veterans, Canby Kiwanis Thrift Shop; God's Closet and Goodwill Industries. **Cheerfully: Your Restoration Manager, Peggy and President Judi**



Photo is taken before the contractors began the new phase October 13. Contractor has told us the floor is in excellent condition and will be same as always with more history in its grain. Two pieces are warped in a spot, but they have assured us that they can be returned to normal with some pressure.

Corey Lohman, President of Emerick Construction and a Canby resident, (on The right) was speaking at the ribbon cutting of newly renovated historic Canby City Hall. Emerick Construction was the contractor hired by the owners to restore this 1937 historic building.



**Thank you Benjamin Moore!  
and Patty Ellis for working with them to obtain this!**

**Interior and Exterior Paint for our Historic Project is being donated by Benjamin Moore Co.**

- A. Primer for Interior, Casework and Exterior: Zinnser B-I-N Shellac Base Primer Ultimate Stain Blocker**
- B. Interior Walls and Ceiling: Benjamin Moore Ultra Spec Scuff-X Interior, Eggshell Finish C485.**

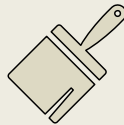
This paint is specially formulated for public buildings, schools, healthcare environments, etc. for outstanding performance, protection, and appearance retention in high traffic areas. Anti-microbial.

Patty Ralston Ellis is a retired commercial interior designer living in Portland. Born in Portland, she was raised in a small northeastern Oregon town, after which she graduated from University of Oregon with a BS in Architecture. She is descended from the Rudolph Wolfer family who settled in Aurora in 1863, and related to the Mark family through Vesta Mark, her dad's first cousin. Her interests include history, architecture, landscaping, historic interiors, fine arts, genealogy, travel and reading.

**Welcome Patty Ralston Ellis** – Our newly elected Board of Directors member.



**Stay tuned for updates more often!**



*Judi*